

Abstract

The invention relates to a plasma source whose plasma is ignited by means of an electric voltage. To be able to carry out the ignition at relatively low voltages, a plate (5) provided with holes (13, 14) is provided beneath a plasma volume (17), which is disposed above a wall (21) of a plasma chamber (3). Through this plate (5) an ignition volume (16) is formed beneath the plasma volume (17) with a higher pressure than in the plasma volume (17), in which the plasma ignites first. The ignition is subsequently propagated through the holes of the plate (5) into the plasma volume (17).